

EXHIBIT 14
DATE 3.22.07
SB 205

Senate Bill 205
March 22, 2007
Presented by Jim Kropp
House Fish, Wildlife & Parks Committee

Mr. Chairman and committee members, for the record I am Jim Kropp, Chief of Law Enforcement, of Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP).

As a point of information, annually, we have to keep four warden districts vacant in order to meet prescribed vacancy savings goals for the division. This results in constantly having areas which, by virtue of the absence of a full-time warden, being underserved. Warden districts encompass approximately 1800 square miles. Thus, at any time, about 7200 square miles of the state is without FWP law enforcement. We could, conceivably utilize operations dollars to accomplish the same end. In fact, this would put us in just as difficult a situation as we would then be affecting field activities of our officers across the state by reducing their ability to actually be in the field. Either way vacancy savings is achieved, we find ourselves in the position of reducing service to the public as well as the resources we are entrusted to protect at all times.